WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method of providing dynamic network pricing data,
2   said method comprising:
3   determining an amount of traffic on a computer
4   network;
5   calculating a network usage price in response to the
6   determination; and
7   applying the network usage price to a network session.

1   2.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2   requesting traffic data from one or more network
3   devices; and
4   receiving traffic data in response to the requests.

1   3.   The method as described in claim 2 wherein the network
2   devices are selected from the group consisting of
3   routers, switches, and computer systems.

1   4.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2   identifying a client computer system corresponding to
3   the network session; and
4   sending the network usage price to the client computer
5   system.

1   5.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2   recording a session start time and the network usage
3   price for the network session;
4   identifying a session stop time for the network
5   session;
6   determining an elapsed session time; and
7   calculating a session billing amount corresponding to
8   the elapsed session time and the network usage
9   price.

1   6.   The method as described in claim 5 further comprising:

2   storing one or more session billing amounts for one or

3   more users;

4   calculating an invoice total for each of the users

5   based on each user's corresponding session

6   billing amounts; and

7   preparing an invoice for each of the users, the

8   invoice including each user's invoice total.

1   7.   The method as described in claim 5 further comprising:

2   writing a high priority header to one or more packets

3   originating from a computer system corresponding

4   to the network session between the session start

5   time and the session stop time.

1   8.   An information handling system comprising:

2   one or more processors;

3   a memory accessible by the processors;

4   a network interface connecting the information

5   handling system to a computer network; and

6   a network pricing tool to provide dynamic network

7   pricing data, the network pricing tool including:

8   means for determining an amount of traffic on a

9   computer network;

10   means for calculating a network usage price in

11   response to the determination; and

12   means for applying the network usage price to a

13   network session.

1   9.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   8 further comprising:

3   means for requesting traffic data from one or more

4   network devices; and

5   means for receiving traffic data in response to the

6   requests.

1   10.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   9 wherein the network devices are selected from the

3   group consisting of routers, switches, and computer

4   systems.

1   11.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   8 further comprising:

3   means for identifying a client computer system

4   corresponding to the network session; and

5   means for sending the network usage price to the

6   client computer system.

1   12.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   8 further comprising:

3   means for recording a session start time and the

4   network usage price for the network session;

5   means for identifying a session stop time for the

6   network session;

7   means for determining an elapsed session time; and

8   means for calculating a session billing amount

9   corresponding to the elapsed session time and the

10   network usage price.

1   13.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   12 further comprising:

3   means for writing a high priority header to one or

4   more packets originating from a computer system

5   corresponding to the network session between the

6   session start time and the session stop time.

1 14. A computer program product stored on a computer

2   operable media for providing dynamic network pricing,

3   said computer program product comprising:

4   means for determining an amount of traffic on a

5   computer network;

6   means for calculating a network usage price in

7   response to the determination; and

8   means for applying the network usage price to a

9   network session.

1 15. The computer program product as described in claim 14

2   further comprising:

3   means for requesting traffic data from one or more

4   network devices; and

5   means for receiving traffic data in response to the

6   requests.

1 16. The computer program product as described in claim 15

2   wherein the network devices are selected from the

3   group consisting of routers, switches, and computer

4   systems.

1 17. The computer program product as described in claim 14

2   further comprising:

3   means for identifying a client computer system

4   corresponding to the network session; and

5   means for sending the network usage price to the

6   client computer system.

1 18. The computer program product as described in claim 14

2   further comprising:

3   means for recording a session start time and the

4   network usage price for the network session;

5   means for identifying a session stop time for the

6   network session;

7   means for determining an elapsed session time; and

8   means for calculating a session billing amount

9   corresponding to the elapsed session time and the

10   network usage price.

1   19. The computer program product as described in claim 18

2   further comprising:

3   means for storing one or more session billing amounts

4   for one or more users;

5   means for calculating an invoice total for each of the

6   users based on each user's corresponding session

7   billing amounts; and

8   means for preparing an invoice for each of the users,

9   the invoice including each user's invoice total.

1   20. The computer program product as described in claim 18

2   further comprising:

3   means for writing a high priority header to one or

4   more packets originating from a computer system

5   corresponding to the network session between the

6   session start time and the session stop time.